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WHITBY RURAL DISTRICT

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

M. DALE WOOD, M.D.,

FOR THE YEAR

1939



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

## **Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE**

# **WHITBY RURAL DISTRICT**

**for the year 1939**



## To the Chairman and Members of the Whitby Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

Owing to the outbreak of hostilities in September, 1939, the curtailment of many activities became at once necessary; so far as the Health Department was concerned, the essential services were carried on, while many additional duties fell upon the staff in connection with A.R.P. reception of Evacuated Children and Mothers from other Areas, etc.

It will be noted that the general health of the district was well maintained, and that so far as Infectious Disease was concerned, the incidence was slight.

In view of the increasing pressure of work in the public health department, The Minister of Health considers that an interim report only should be made for 1939, confined to essential and urgent matters. Consequently, less detail is presented than usual, all records are however being carefully preserved, in order that a more continuous and complete report may as far as practicable be made later, dealing with the period from the beginning of 1939.

Your obedient servant,

M. DALE WOOD.

Grape Lane,  
Whitby,  
Yorks.

October, 1940.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Name.	Qualifications	Office held	Whole or part time	Other Public Offices held
M. DALE WOOD	M. D., B.S.	Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital.	Whole	Medical Officer of Health Whitby Urban District Council. School Medical Inspector North Riding Yorks. County Council
F. LAWSON	Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor	Whole	
W. B. LAWSON	Cert. R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor	Whole	
MRS. M. O. GOAD	S. R. N. General & Fever, F.B.C.N.	Matron Isolation Hospital	Whole	

## Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

**Area** ..... 113,771 acres

### Estimated Population—

1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.
11,530	11,510	11,570	11,690	11,840

### Number of Inhabited Houses at the End of the year—

1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.
3,750	3,760	3,774	3,728	3,998

**Number of New Houses built in 1939** ..... 24

**Rateable Value** ..... £49,830

**Sum represented by a Penny Rate** ..... £198

## EVACUATION OF CHILDREN under A.R.P. Scheme.

The Whitby Rural District was a Reception Area under the scheme. The following were received:—

Sept. 1939.	Received from	School children.	Mothers, Teachers & Infants.	Helpers.	Total.
	Hull	328	210	37	575
	W. Hartlepool	160	82	11	253
		488	292	48	828
		Remaining at date of this publication			192

**EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE  
YEAR 1939.**

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births .....	80	69	149
(Legitimate) .....	76	69	145
(Illegitimate) .....	4	0	4

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.05.

Still Births .....	3	4	7
(legitimate) .....	3	4	7
(illegitimate) .....	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 46.9.

Deaths ..... 84 76 160

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 29 of the Registrar-General's Short List) ..... I

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 6.6.

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:—

		M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	.....	7	1	8
Illegitimate	.....	0	0	0
		—	—	—
	Total .....	7	1	8
		—	—	—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	53.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births...	54.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	o
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	27
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	o
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	o
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	o

1939—

For the whole of England and Wales per 1,000  
of total population:—

Live Birth Rate .....	15.0
Death Rate (all causes) .....	12.1

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1939,

according to Registrar-General's Classification:—

		Males.	Females.	T'tl.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0	0	0
2.	Measles .....	0	0	0
3.	Scarlet Fever .....	0	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
5.	Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
6.	Influenza .....	4	1	5
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica .....	0	0	0
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	0	0	0
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
10.	Other Tubercular Diseases .....	1	1	2
11.	Syphilis .....	0	0	0
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis .....	0	0	0
13.	Cancer, malignant disease .....	5	22	27
14.	Diabetes .....	1	1	2
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage .....	5	7	12
16.	Heart Disease .....	23	16	39
17.	Aneurysm .....	0	0	0
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases .....	9	9	18
19.	Bronchitis .....	5	2	7
20.	Pneumonia (all forms) .....	4	1	5
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases .....	4	0	4
22.	Peptic Ulcer .....	0	0	0
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years of age) .....	0	0	0
24.	Appendicitis .....	0	0	0
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver .....	1	1	2
26.	Other diseases of Liver .....	0	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases .....	1	1	2
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	2	1	3
29.	Puerperal Sepsis .....	0	1	1
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases .....	0	0	0
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ....	6	1	7
32.	Senility .....	1	2	3
33.	Suicide .....	0	0	0
34.	Other Violence .....	4	2	6
35.	Other Defined Diseases .....	7	5	12
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown .....	0	0	0
	All Causes .....	84	76	160
		—	—	—

## DEATHS AT SPECIFIED AGES.

Age in Years.	1935.		1936.		1937.		1938.		1939.	
	M.	F.								
Under 1	10	2	2	3	4	2	2	3	7	1
1 to 9	1	2	5	0	5	2	3	2	1	2
10 to 19	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	3	1
20 to 29	6	2	1	1	3	1	4	0	2	1
30 to 39	2	1	5	3	4	2	6	2	0	1
40 to 49	3	3	6	6	5	1	4	4	3	3
50 to 59	7	5	7	3	15	16	6	10	10	5
60 to 69	19	17	21	12	11	22	17	15	15	14
70 to 79	33	20	34	33	26	28	24	23	21	33
80 and over	17	23	13	11	12	19	6	15	19	15
All ages	99	77	96	72	86	93	72	75	84	76
Total	<hr/> 176		<hr/> 168		<hr/> 179		<hr/> 147		<hr/> 160	

## Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (a) Laboratory Facilities.**
- (b) Ambulance Facilities.**
- (c) Nursing in the Home.**
- (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

There has been no change in any of these since the last Report.

- (e) Hospitals.**

The New Isolation Hospital, Stainsacre Lane, was opened on the 17th January, 1940. It consists of Administration, Cubicle and Ward Blocks of modern design, and is administered by a Joint Committee of the Whitby Urban and Rural District Councils.

## WHITBY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

### RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Patients.	Urban.	Rural.	T'tl.
Remaining 31st Dec., 1938:—			
Scarlet Fever .....	8	0	8
Diphtheria .....	1	0	1
Admitted, 1939:—			
Scarlet Fever .....	41	32	73
Diphtheria .....	7	8	15
Enteric Fever .....	0	1	1
Observation Cases .....	2	1	3
Discharged cured, 1939:—			
Scarlet Fever .....	42	30	72
Diphtheria .....	7	8	15
Enteric Fever .....	0	1	1
Observation .....	2	1	3
Died during 1939:—			
Diphtheria .....	1	0	1
Remaining December 31st, 1939:—			
Scarlet Fever .....	6	2	8
Observation .....	1	0	1
Average stay of Patients in Days ...	39.9	42.1	40.9
Daily average of occupied beds .....	5.4	4.8	10.3
Number of Patient-Days for the Year .....			3,767

### SUMMARY OF "PATIENT-DAYS" DURING 1939.

Month.	Urban.	Rural.	Total.
January .....	317	50	367
February .....	257	116	373
March .....	83	48	131
April .....	42	34	76
May .....	39	203	242
June .....	90	426	516
July .....	189	195	384
August .....	179	113	292
September .....	72	44	116
October .....	227	102	329
November .....	314	285	599
December .....	186	156	342
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1995	1772	3767
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The daily average of occupied beds was in:—

1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.
10.3	24.1	5.8	4.5	17.4

## Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER.

The Rainfall during 1939 was 35.43 inches, as against 38.47 inches, the average for the past ten years.

**Hinderwell.**—A plentiful supply is now available for all parts of the District.

**Westerdale.**—Complaints have recently been made by householders about the inadequacy of the supply. The nature of the water causes corrosion inside the pipes. This estate was recently sold and in parts divided up under different owners.

**Fylingdales.**—The water derived from the Brock Hall and Spring Hill extension has improved the quantity of the supply, but during heavy rains the water from Nos. 4 and 5 Springs becomes cloudy. Means are being sought to correct this. The reservoir is still uncovered.

**Goathland.**—Since the reservoir was cleaned out, and certain repairs effected, the latest Bacteriological Report has found the water to be “highly satisfactory for drinking purposes.”

**Sneaton-Thorpe.**—No improvement has been effected. The farm and cottages still draw their water from the stream.

**Castleton.**—There has been an abundant supply of good, pure water since the introduction of the Kempswithen and Haggerback Springs.

**Danby.**—It was found that the pipes carrying the water from the springs were not jointed, and, in consequence, surface water was getting in before reaching the reservoir. The whole of these were taken up and re-laid and jointed, chambers were also constructed over the springs and covered.

**Hawsker.**—Nothing has been done to improve the prevailing inadequate supply.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

**Sleights.**—The new scheme is working well; during the year 1939 the Carr Hill and Briggswath area of the Whitby Urban District was connected, by a sewer running below the river bed, with these Sewerage Works.

**Grosmont.**—After deciding to sewer Grosmont, Egton and Egton Bridge, the matter was delayed; it is feared that when this is undertaken after the war, it will be at a greatly increased cost.

**Sandsend.**—Owing to periodical blockages of the sewer between Eastrow bridge and the outlet, the Council decided to instal a bend and a flap valve at a slightly higher level to provide an alternative outlet, to deal with the shifting sand.

**Glaisdale.**—The sewage disposal here is very unsatisfactory, such sewer as there is opens untreated into a wood. This matter has been referred to in several previous reports.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversions to Water Closets .....	106
New Houses, Water Closets .....	24
New Houses, Earth Closets .....	0

Under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the Council makes an allowance of £2 towards the cost where the owner of private property proposes to provide a water closet in place of a closet of another type.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The scheme for refuse collection, which was inaugurated over a year ago, has been the cause of great satisfaction. Two Refuse Waggon are now employed; the second of these came into operation in May, 1939. They collect from approximately 2,830 houses, and practically every village or collection of houses in the district is served.

The estimated cost—£1,760 yearly—includes Drivers, Loaders, Maintenance, Tipping Places, etc.

The refuse is tipped at Eskdaleside, Mickleby, and part, derived from the Robin Hood's Bay Area, at the Whitby Urban District Council's Destructor Works.

## Section D.—HOUSING.

It is noteworthy that so far as Demolition and Clearance Orders were made (in some cases so long ago as the year 1935) practically no demolitions have so far taken place with regard to these. In consequence, applications are now being frequently received from owners to allow the houses to be re-occupied under various emergency regulations, in spite of the fact that the Council is in receipt of subsidies under the Housing Acts, in relation to them.

### Overcrowding, 1939.

(i)	Number of Houses overcrowded at the end of the year .....	13
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein .....	13
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein .....	83
(iv)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	0
(v)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	10
(vi)	Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	65

## Section E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

Registered Cow-keepers and Dairymen .....	617
Number of Inspections .....	55

### Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses .....	19
Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses .....	7
New Slaughter-men's licences issued .....	1
Number of Inspections made .....	157

### Carcases Condemned.

84 stones.

## Section F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of Notifiable Infectious Disease was again light during 1939.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)  
DURING THE YEAR 1939.**

Disease.	Total Notified.	Total		
		cases to Hospital.	cases admitted.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever .....	34	.....	31	..... 0
Diphtheria .....	9	.....	8	..... 0
Typhoid Fever .....	1	.....	1	..... 0
Pneumonia .....	12	.....	0	..... 5
Measles .....	1	.....	0	..... 0
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	2	.....	0	..... 1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ....	1	.....	0	..... 0

**ANALYSIS OF AGE GROUPS.**

Age Period.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerp. Pyrex.	Measles.
Under 1 year...	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year .....	0	2	0	0	0	0
2 years .....	2	0	0	0	0	0
3 years .....	2	0	0	0	0	0
4 years .....	0	1	0	0	0	0
5 years .....	17	3	0	1	0	0
10 years .....	7	0	0	2	0	0
15 years .....	0	1	0	0	0	0
20 years .....	4	2	0	2	2	1
35 years .....	1	0	1	1	0	0
45 years .....	1	0	0	4	0	0
65 years .....	0	0	0	2	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	34	9	1	12	2	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—

**CANCER.**

The number of deaths from Cancer and Malignant Disease were:—

1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.
27	22	29	24	18

## TUBERCULOSIS, 1939.

Age periods.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Non-		Non-	
	Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Respiratory.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
0 to 1 year...	0 0	1 0	0 0	1 0
1 to 5 years...	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
5 to 15 years...	2 0	1 0	0 0	0 0
15 to 25 years...	1 2	0 0	0 0	0 0
25 to 35 years...	0 0	0 0	1 1	0 0
35 to 45 years...	0 2	0 0	0 0	0 0
45 to 55 years...	1 0	0 1	0 0	0 1
55 to 65 years...	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
65 and upwards	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	—	—	—	—
	5 4	2 1	1 1	1 1
	—	—	—	—

  

Five Years:						
1936	.....	1 5	1 0	0 3	2 0	
1935	.....	1 5	6 2	1 3	1 0	
1937	.....	1 1	4 6	3 1	1 1	
1938	.....	4 4	1 3	3 4	0 2	
1939	.....	5 4	2 1	1 1	1 1	
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12 19	14 12	8 12	5 4		
	—	—	—	—	—	—

## REGISTER OF RAINFALL FOR 1939.

(Kindly supplied by P. M. Horsfall, Esq., Sleights Hall.)

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
4.27	1.93	2.38	2.24	2.31	3.73
July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2.48	3.47	1.47	5.55	2.65	2.50
Total for year—35.43 inches.					

## PREVIOUS YEAR'S RAINFALL.

1939	.....	35.43	1934	.....	35.08
1938	.....	27.81	1933	.....	34.82
1937	.....	41.02	1932	.....	38.78
1936	.....	37.46	1931	.....	42.58
1935	.....	39.28	1930	.....	52.45
Yearly average for 10 years—38.47					







